

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 02494 291344Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /078 W
-----291454Z 020658 /43

R 291215Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2626
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2494

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT SOCI GV
SUBJ: GUINEAN POLITICAL FOOTBALL: LOSERS SORE

REF: ABIDJAN 12005 (NOTAL)

1. POLITICAL AFTERMATH OF HAFIA CLUB'S FOOTBALL LOSS TO ALGIERS
IN FINAL OF NKRUMAH CUP, AS REFTTEL INDICATES, WAS LESS
THAN SPORTING, SLIGHTLY DEMENTED, BUT NOT ALL THAT INCONSISTENT
WITH GUINEA'S IDEOLOGIZED OUTLOOK.

2. PRESIDENT TOURE, STUNG BY HAFIA'S BLOWING CHANCE TO RETIRE CUP
AS THREE-TIME CHAMPS AND TO VAUNT GUINEA'S "REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH,"
STAGED PUBLIC POST-MORTEM DECEMBER 24 AT PACKED PEOPLES PALACE
SESSION OF POLITBUREAU AND MUCH OF GOVERNMENT. AFTER MEA CULPAS
FROM STARTING PLAYERS AND HAPLESS SPORTS OFFICIALS, TOURE FIRED
ON SPOT MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORT TOUMANY SANGARE, PURGED
VIRTUALLY ENTIRE SPORTS FEDERATION LEADERSHIP PLUS ALL MINISTRY
OFFICIALS PRESENT AT ALGIERS DEBACLE, AND SUSPENDED SEVERAL
PLAYERS AND TRAINERS CHARGING "TREASON," BETRAYAL OF RESPONSIBILITY,
"INSULT TO GUINEA'S ALLIES," AND "NATIONAL DISGRACE."
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 02494 291344Z

3. OVERCONFIDENT GOG OFFICIALS AT ALGIERS HAD OVERRULED
HAFIA'S ROMANIAN COACH AND HANDFUL OF OTHERS WHO WANTED TO REFUSE
PLAY MATCH UNLESS ALGIERS CLUB, AS RULES REQUIRED, WAS MADE TO
WITHDRAW ALLEGEDLY INELIGIBLE PLAYERS. LOSS MADE VIPS SCAPEGOATS
FOR TOURE'S WRATH, WHICH WAS PROBABLY NOT ENTIRELY MISPLACED.

ACCORDING TO ROMANIAN COACH, TEAM HAS BEEN INCORRIGIBLY ILL-DISCIPLINED (HE ALMOST HAD TO HAVE POLICE ARREST PLAYERS TO GET THEM ON TIME TO FIRST MATCH AGAINST ALGIERS IN CONAKRY), IS CHOSEN AND RUN NEPOTISTICALLY (FIVE STARTERS ARE RELATIVES OR FAVORITES OF MINISTERS) AND COACH IS ONLY A "TECHNICAL ADVISOR." COACH AGREED TO STAY WITH TEAM THIS FALL AFTER CONTRACT RAN OUT ONLY UNTIL CUP PLAY ENDED, FOR WHICH PERIOD HE SAYS HE IS STILL TRYING, SO FAR UNSECCUSSFULLY, TO GET PAID.

4. UGLY MOOD CARRIED OVER TO MATCH DECEMBER 26 BETWEEN MOROCCO AND GUINEAN JUNIORS WHEN SIZEABLE STADIUM CROWD RAMPAGED MOMENTARILY OUT OF CONTROL OF TROOPS WHO HAD TO FIRE A FEW SHOTS (SOME CLAIMED TO HAVE HEARD A "HEAVY WEAPON" FIREDPL TO QUELL ROWDIES. TOURE THEN CALLED ABRUPT "EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS" OF ALL CONAKRY LOCAL PARTY-STATE BODIES (PRL'S) EVENING DECEMBER 27 (CANCELLING DANCES, MOVIES AND OTHER EVENTS) REPORTEDLY TO "ACHIEVE CONSENSUS WITH MASSES" ON FOOTBALL ISSUE.

5. COMMENT: HAVING INFLAMED NATIONALISM BY POLITICIZING HAFIA'S MANY VICTORIES, TOURE IS NOW STUCK WITH AFTERMATH OF LOSS. AS A FEW GUINEAN CONTACTS DARED TO CONFIDE, "ON EXAGERE UN PEU." MAINLAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CONAKR02494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760474-1333
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976128/aaaaagdt.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ABIDJAN 12005
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUINEAN POLITICAL FOOTBALL: LOSERS SORE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOCI, GV, AG, (SANGARE, TOUMANY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006